

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08166 170917Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022232 172139Z /46

R 170850Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1822
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8166

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PDIP, CB, TH
SUBJ: CAMBODIAN-THAI RELATIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 6826; B) BANGKOK 7547

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED US MARCH 16 THAT KAMPUCHEAN LEADERS AND KAMPUCHEAN MFA HAVE RESPONDED TO RTG MESSAGES TO PHNOM PENH CONCERNING THE CONTINUING CONFLICT ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER. KAMPUCHEAN PM POL POT WROTE PM KRIANGSAK AND DEPUTY PM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IENG SARY WROTE FONMIN UPPADIT, IN ADDITION TO THE MFA TO MFA EXCHANGES, ADDRESSING THE BORDER ISSUE. EXCHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE IN VIENTIANE. WHEN ASKED IF THE EXCHANGES GAVE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM IN THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS, MFA OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE MESSAGES AS "MIXED." AT THE SAME TIME, MFA HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT RECENT COMMUNICATIONS FROM IENG SARY INDICATE THAT PHNOM PENH DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT THE BORDER PROBLEMS NEED IMPAIR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN ORDER TO AVOID BORDER CONFLICT, ALTHOUGH EARLIER PM KRIANGSAK SAID THAT IENG SARY MIGHT VISIT THAILAND THIS MONTH, MFA HAS NOW INDICATED TO THE PRESS THAT NO RPT NO
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DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE VISIT.

2. COMMENT: THE BORDER CLASHES HAVE ABATED SOMEWHAT BUT STILL OCCUR FREQUENTLY ENOUGH TO PLAGUE THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS. WE ASSUME THAT THE "MIXED" NATURE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS FROM PHNOM PENH, AS DESCRIBED BY MFA, INDICATES THAT THE CAMBODIANS PROBABLY CONCUR IN CALLS FOR RESTRAINT, BUT THEY ARE PRESUMABLY

UNWILLING TO ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACKS OR TO ABSOLVE
THE RTG OF RESPONSIBILITY. CAMBODIANS MAY ALSO BE SMARTING OVER
THE "FIRM ACTION" OF WHICH PM KRIANGSAK SPOKE TO THE AMBASSADOR
(REF B).
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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